

rain water for irrigation and other purposes, as a result of which the total live storage capacity of the country is at present about 193.2 billion cubic metres. Dams to create additional live storage capacity of 77 billion cubic metres are under various stages of construction. In addition, about 130 billion cubic metres storage is likely to be added through major and medium schemes under consideration.

(d) and (e). The National Water Development Agency is carrying out studies on the National Perspective Plan for water resources development which, inter-alia envisages transferring water from surplus to water-short basins by inter-linking of rivers and constructing reservoirs at potential sites. It is estimated that another 220 billion cubic metres of water will be available for utilisation under National Perspective Plan for use through inter-basin transfers

### Irrigation Water Rates

1247. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) the irrigation water rates currently in operation in various States, State-wise and when they were last revised;

(b) whether it is a fact the prevailing water rates are highly uneconomic and do not cover even maintenance charges;

(c) if so, whether experts committee has gone into the problem of uneconomic water rate structure and made certain recommendations

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the details of action taken proposed for rationalisation of water rates in consultation with the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Details indicating the irrigation water rates currently in operation in various States alongwith the year of their last revision are appended.

(b) to (e) There is a gap between revenue realised through irrigation and related charges and the cost of operation and maintenance of irrigation projects. According to the report of the Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water (known as Vaidyanathan Committee) submitted to the Planning Commission in September, 1992, the actual irrigation revenue on an average, worked out in 1989-90 to Rs. 50 per hectare (Rs. 20 per acre) as against the operation and maintenance costs amounting to Rs. 270 per hectare (Rs. 109 per acre). The suggestions of the Committee include : treating water rates as users charge; the objective of water charges is ultimately to recover cost; linking provision of water rates to the improvement of the quality of service; revision and implementation of water rates

in phases; consolidation of the system of Farmer group management; upgrading the system to higher level efficiency in water use and productivity; setting up experts group at the State level for working out norms for operation and maintenance and procedure for periodic review; setting up of autonomous boards at the State level to review policy regarding cost of water, revising water rates and introducing a minimum financial return criteria. The recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee were studied by the Group of Officers (GOO) set up by the Planning Commission in December, 1992. The GOO in its report of December, 1994, recommended, inter-alia, that the irrigation water rates should cover the full annual operation and maintenance cost in phases in next 5 years period. Irrigation being a State subject, recommendations of the GOO alongwith the report of the Vaidyanathan Committee has been sent by the Planning Commission to all the States for consideration and further action.

### Construction of Hostels

1248. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) total number of hostels available for working women in West Bengal;

(b) the names of places from where the proposal for construction of more of such hostels in West Bengal have been received during the last three years, district-wise;

(c) the number of proposals sanctioned as on March 31, 1996 and the funds allocated for each hostel; and

(d) the time by which the remaining proposals are likely to be declared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) 35 hostels have so far been sanctioned in West Bengal

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

(d) The time by which remaining proposals are likely to be approved depends upon the time by which complete schematic requirements are met

### STATEMENT

S. No.	Names of places from where Proposals have been received		whether proposal sanctioned as on 31.3.1996	Funds allocated (Rs. in lakhs)
	District	Place		
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Yes	13.70
2.	Howrah	Bagnan	No.	-